

B-20

Lloyd Street Synagogue

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 03-10-2011

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Lloyd Street Synagogue

AND/OR COMMON

Lloyd Street Synagogue

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

11 Lloyd Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore,

VICINITY OF

Third

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

CODE

024

COUNTY

Baltimore City

CODE

510

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☒ RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dr. Moses Aberbach, The Jewish Historical Society of Md., Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

5800 Park Heights Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore,

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21215

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Records Office, Room 601

STREET & NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore,

STATE

Maryland 21202

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Baltimore City Landmark List

DATE

1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY ☒ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore,

STATE

Maryland 21202

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lloyd Street Synagogue was begun in 1845 and restored in the early 1960's. Bilateral symmetry and simplicity of design define the Greek Revival building which characteristically features fluted Greek Doric columns supporting a portico, a low pitched roof and trabeated windows. Of particular note is a round stained glass window with a Star of David design, said to be the first on any exterior in America.

The American common bond brick building rests on a coarse stone foundation trimmed by a granite sill. Narrow alleys flank the north and south facades, giving access to the basement. Five windows with doors at the westernmost bays fill each basement wall and are symmetrical with the trabeated windows above.

Seven stone steps lead to the shallow portico. Four granite piers extend out from the western facade, serving as bases for four fluted, plastered Doric columns which support a Doric pediment with guttae, triglyphs and mutules. The lathed and plastered porch ceiling is coffered.

The original central entrance is flanked by two smaller doorways added in 1860. Severe wood surrounds dignify all three doors. Each entrance holds a pair of four-panel, wooden doors and a four-panel, wooden transom surmounts the middle door.

A round, leaded glass window nearly level with the architrave and outside the pediment accents the west facade. Under the pediment, surmounting the main door, is a triple window with a shallow-arched lintel. These windows light the vestibule behind the balcony. A shallow gabled parapet wall conceals a low pitched roof.

The six bay wide north and south facades are defined by six shallow brick frames which hold rectangular double hung windows with 4/4 lights. Recessed rectangular panels below the stone sills accent the lower section of the frames, which extend to the water table. Molded brick cornices finish each top. A perimetric brick string course above the windows relieves the vertical lines of the facades, as does a simple cornice crowning the low-pitched roof.

Three stained glass round windows fill the upper section of the eastern facade. The central window bears a Star of David in the center of which is a Grecian Corinthian acanthus. The interspaces are filled with leaves. The flanking windows hold eight-point star patterns.

The front and south facades are protected by fences and gates. The center gate and the fence along the south wall have simple wrought iron work.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Lloyd Street Synagogue
Baltimore City,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION (continued)

The unassuming features of Greek Revival architecture are also repeated on the restored interior. Two crystal chandeliers (now electrified) added in 1860 hang from the high ceiling. Balustraded balconies, built to separate male and female worshippers, run the length of the synagogue, receiving light from gas lanterns which rest on slender poles. The balconies are supported on cast iron fluted posts which divide the wooden stall pews. The latter are arranged around a raised central reading platform with railings identical to those in the balcony.

Entrance is obtained through a shallow vestibule separated by a plastered partition. Opposing enclosed stairwells lead to the balconies and to the basement. The east wall thrusts out into a bow to accommodate the Ark, a two-stepped structure resembling a Greek portico which contains one or more Torahs. Gilded Corinthian pillars and pilasters carry a pedimented entablature accented by modillions. Gilded detailing enhances the three panel doors and a representation of Moses' stone tablets saddles the apex.

The basement is divided into several simple rooms with chair railing trim and fascia cornices. One of the rooms has been converted into a small museum and the surfaces above the chair rails are faced with pegboard to facilitate exhibit changes. Wooden exhibit cases line the walls.

A second room retains its original function as a hall for daily worship. An unadorned wooden reading desk stands before rough hewn pews. Several book cases stand against the walls.

The original 1845 oven for baking matzos is also in the basement, as are three ritual baths or mikvehs of ceramic tile.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

B-20

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1845 with 1860 addition BUILDER/ARCHITECT Robert Cary Long Jr., and William Reasin

The Baltimore Hebrew Congregation was incorporated on January 29, 1830, and was the first Jewish congregation to be chartered in the state. The congregation worshipped in several second floor storefronts until the early 1840's, when its members were affluent enough to build the Lloyd Street Synagogue, the first synagogue built in Maryland.

The Lloyd Street Synagogue, a late example of Greek Revival architecture, was designed in 1841 by Robert Carey Long, Jr. (1810-1849). Long's first commission, the St. Alphonsus Roman Catholic Church (1842) established his reputation as one of Baltimore's leading architects. St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, dedicated in 1843, the Franklin Street Presbyterian Church (1844), and Mount Calvary Episcopal Church was also designed by Mr. Long.

The synagogue cost \$20,000 to complete. Massrs, Curly and Sons were the builders. They received \$3,256 for their work.

Abraham Rice, who had emigrated from Germany in 1840, was the first rabbi of Lloyd Street. It is believed that he was the first ordained rabbi to serve in any congregation in the United States.

By 1860 the congregation had so increased in size as to necessitate the construction of a thirty foot extension. Another local architect, William H. Reasin, of Reasin and Weatherald, designed the renovation which preserved all the old features of the synagogue. In addition, two smaller doors were added to the entrance, and the interior received two large gas chandeliers and a new Ark. Reasin received \$250.00 for his work. Mr. Reasin was the architect of the campinile on the Number Six Engine House (1853) at Gay and Ensor Streets and the Shoemaker residence, 901 St. Paul Street.

An interplay of urban blight and differences in religious ideologies convinced several members of the congregation to move "Uptown" in 1891 to Madison Avenue and Robert Streets, a more fashionable location. There they built a large Byzantine style synagogue designed by Charles L. Carson (National Register, 11/76).

The Lloyd Street Synagogue was sold to a Lithuanian Roman Catholic Congregation and renamed the Church of St. John the Baptist. It was

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Baltimore City,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

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STATE OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

returned to its original use in 1905, when it was purchased by the Jewish congregation of Shomrei Mishmereth Hokodesh, the Guardians of the Sacred Heritage.

This group of new immigrants followed the Sephardic ritual of Hassidism. Their rabbi, Abraham N. Schwartz, was a famed Talmudic scholar who in 1917 founded the Talmudical Academy of Baltimore.

The congregation remained stable until the late 1950's when only a few members remained in the neighborhood. The possible demolition of Lloyd Street, for a parking lot, attracted the attention of Wilber Hunter, director of the Peale Museum. Mr. Hunter was instrumental in alerting the Jewish community of Baltimore, who organized a committee to study the possibility of preserving the building. As a result, the Jewish Historical Society was formed. Guided by Dr. Issac Fein, the Society secured an option to purchase the building. On Sunday, November 8, 1964, the Synagogue was rededicated. The Ark of 1860 was restored and all of the original 1845 interior was retained. The gas chandeliers and balcony lamps were electrified.

The Lloyd Street Synagogue became a Baltimore City Landmark by City Ordinance 971 on January 11, 1971.

The neighborhood surrounding the Synagogue boasts an abundance of historic structures, the Mckim Free School, the Flag House, and the Carroll Mansion, which support the historic and architectural character of the Lloyd Street Synagogue, a symbol of Baltimore's Jewish heritage.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

B-20

- Hunter, Wilbur. "Historic American Buildings Survey: Lloyd Street Synagogues." (Baltimore, 1959),
Stanton, Phoebe. The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture. (Baltimore, 1968).
Tobak, Israel. "The Lloyd Street Synagogue of Baltimore: A National Shrine." (Baltimore, 1964).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 361924 435024
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michele LeFaivre, Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation 1976

STREET & NUMBER

100 N. Holliday Street

DATE

TELEPHONE

(301) 396-4866

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

B-20

- Hunter, Wilbur. "Historic American Buildings Survey: Lloyd Street Synagogues." (Baltimore, 1959).
 Stanton, Phoebe. "The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture." (Baltimore, 1968).
 Tobak, Israel. "The Lloyd Street Synagogue of Baltimore: A National Shrine." (Baltimore, 1964).

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 361890 4350010
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michele LeFaivre, Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation 1976

STREET & NUMBER

100 N. Holliday Street

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TELEPHONE

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STATE X

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STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

John N. Pearce

DATE

11/30/77

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

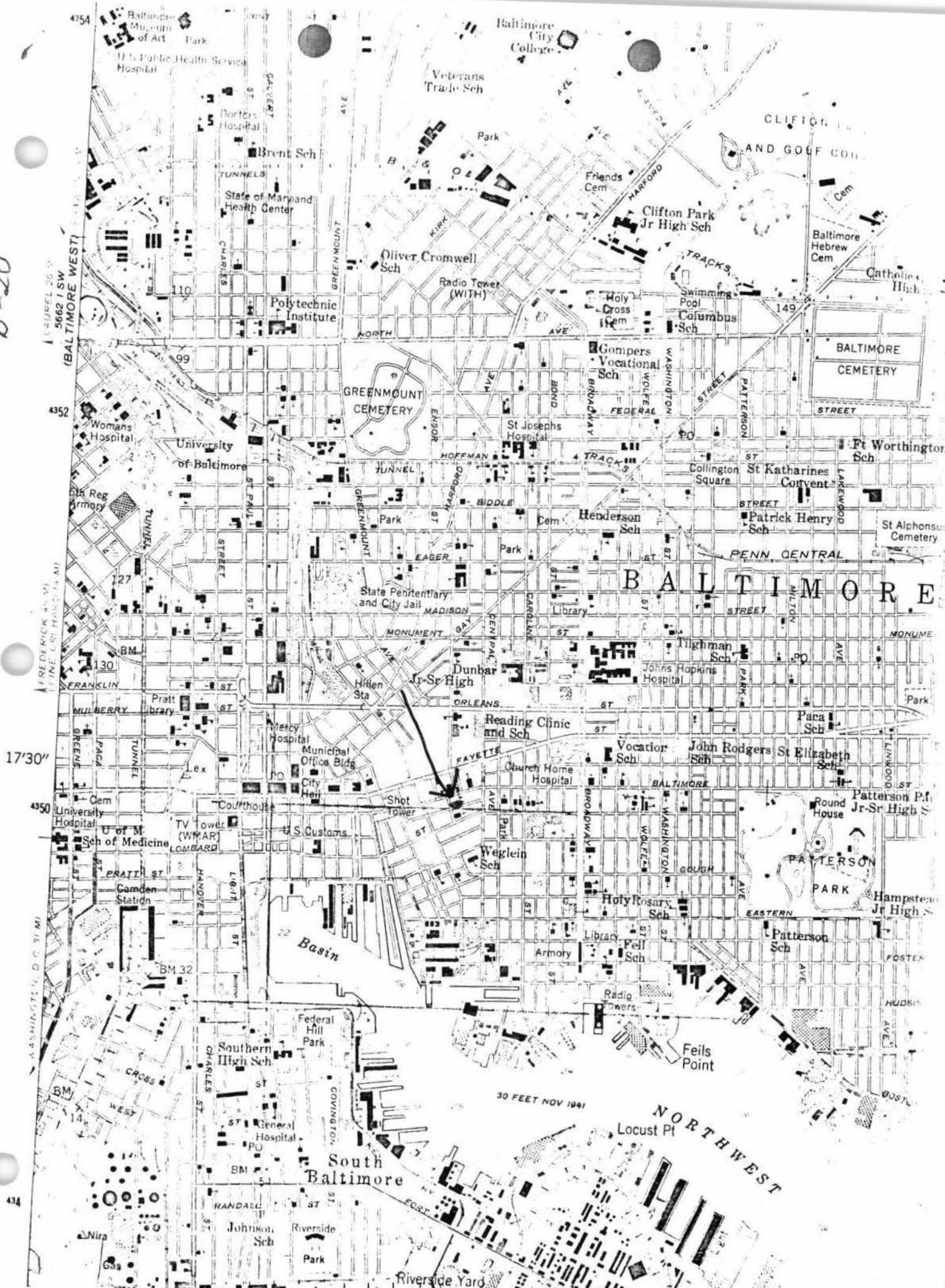
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Lloyd Street Synagogue
8-20



17°30"

30 FEET NOV 1941

NORTHWEST
Locust Pl

South
Baltimore

Easement

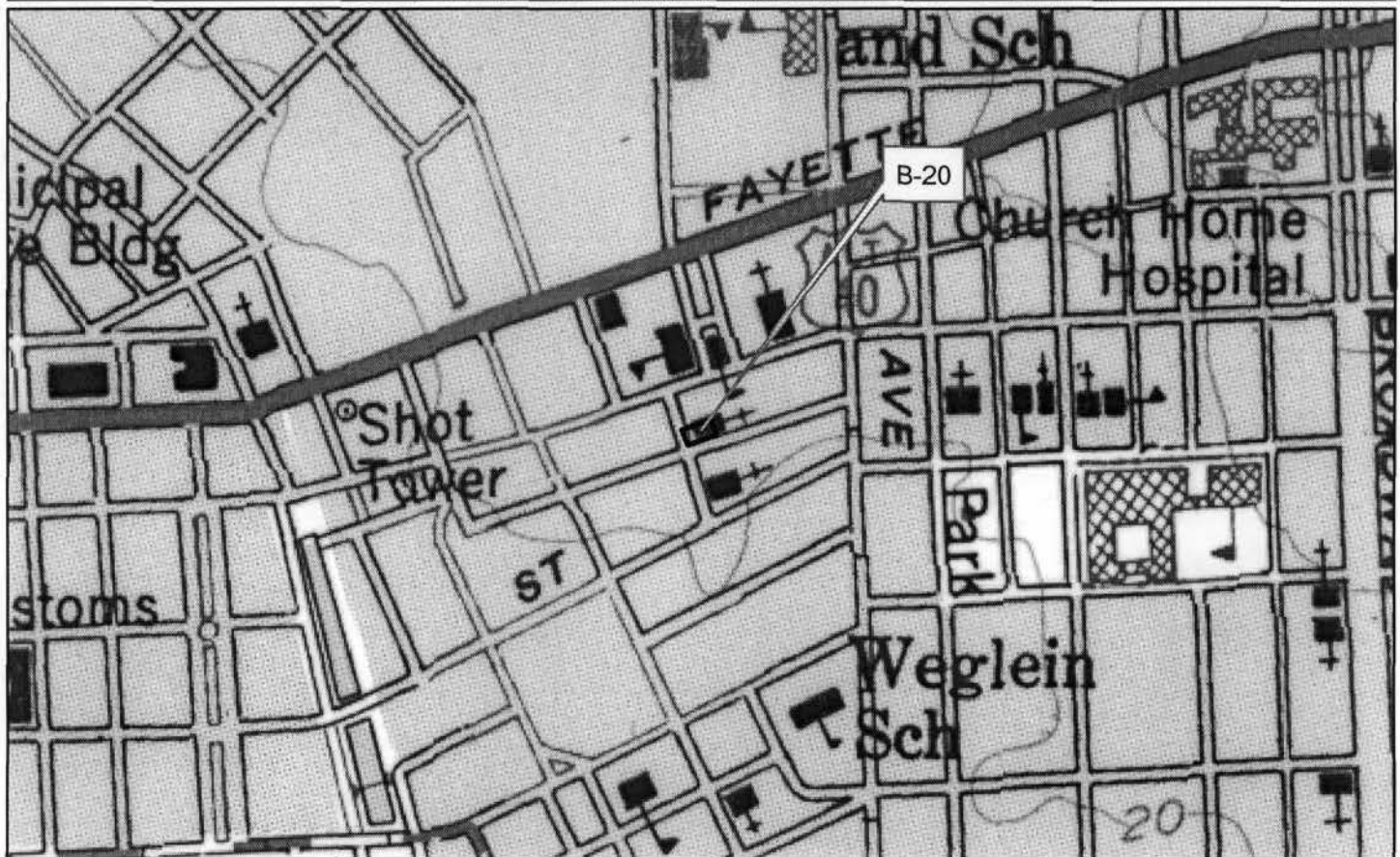
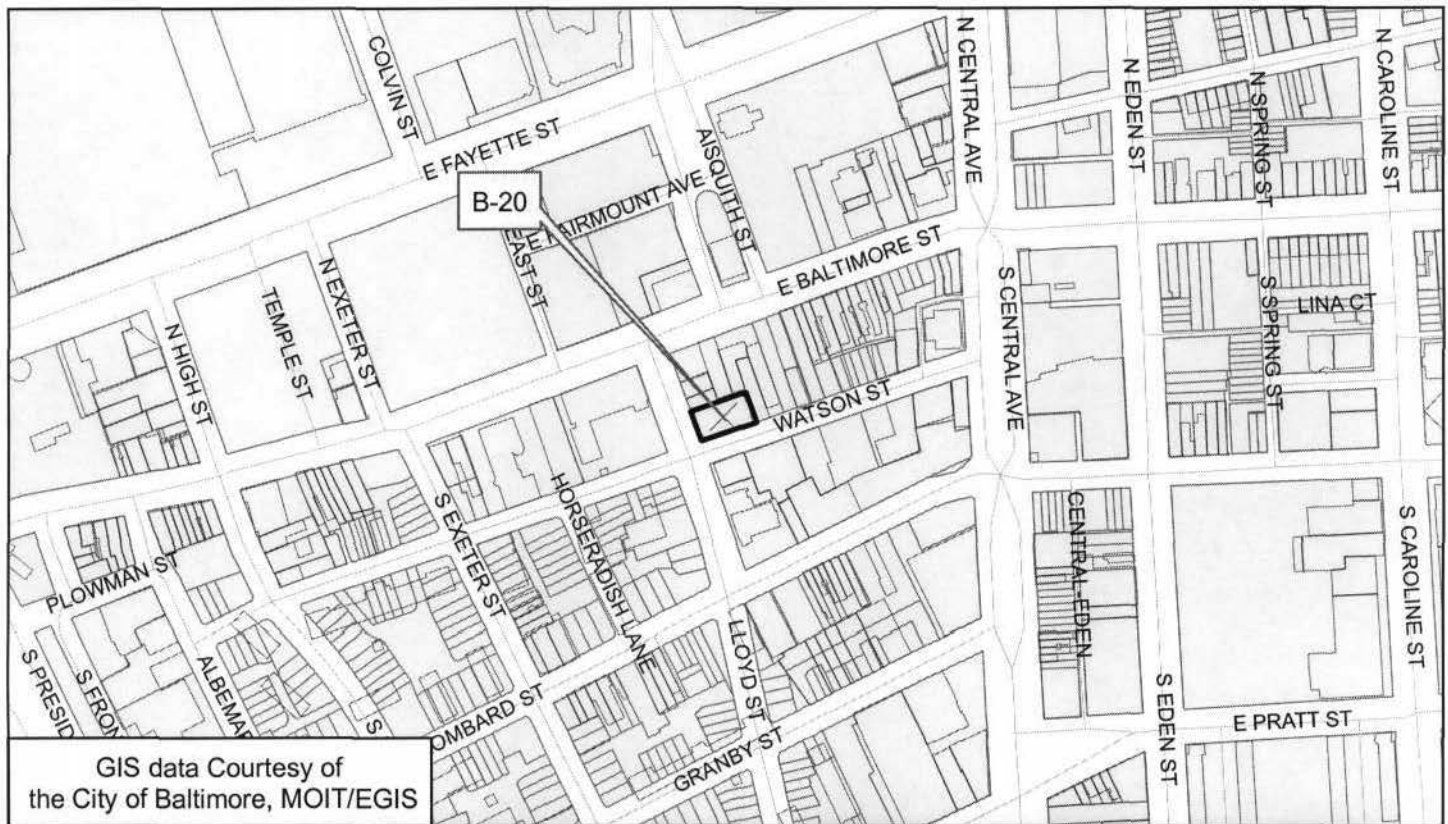
MAGI #0400202409

0020

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Baltimore County TOWN Baltimore City STREET NO. Lloyd and Watson Streets 11 Lloyd St. ORIGINAL OWNER Baltimore Hebrew Congregation ORIGINAL USE Religious PRESENT OWNER Jewish Historical Society of Md. PRESENT USE Historical Monument WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick NO. OF STORIES		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY B-20 2. NAME Lloyd Street Synagogue DATE OR PERIOD 1845 STYLE Classic Revival ARCHITECT R. C. Long BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <p>The Synagogue was the first church of the Hebrew faith built in Maryland and was the third to be built in the United States. The brick building is three bays wide and six bays deep. It rests on a stone foundation and the side elevation windows are within a panel slightly projecting from the wall. Over the three entrance doors is a Doric porch with full entablature. There is molded stone trim around the doors. On each side of the porch are circular windows which light the balcony. The building has recently been restored to the appearance of 1860. It retains much of its original fence, steps and interior woodwork.</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Very Good Exterior Very Good			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Michael O. Bourne Maryland Historical Trust DATE OF RECORD March 19, 1968	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

B-20
Lloyd Street Synagogue
11 Lloyd Street
Block 1362 Lot 001
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





LOYD ST. SYNAGOGUE B-20

~~B'NAI ISRAEL~~

LOYD & WATSON STS,

2/77

LLOYD STREET SYNAGOGUE

11 Lloyd Street

1845

Architect: Robert Cary Long, Jr.

Designed in the Greek Revival style by Robert Cary Long, Jr. and dedicated in 1845, this is the first synagogue erected in Maryland and the third oldest in the country, preceded only by the Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island and Beth Elohim (1841) in Charleston, South Carolina. As the population shifted, the congregation dwindled and the building was put to other uses. It had a Lithuanian Roman Catholic congregation from 1880 to 1890. When it was about to be demolished in 1960, the Jewish Historical Society purchased and restored the synagogue as a museum. Many of the original features of the building still remain, including the wooden pews, women's balcony, the cast iron fence and the blue and white cuspidors. Ritual baths as well as ovens for baking Passover bread survive in the basement.

Deed ref: JFC 1438/102

Lot size: 63'x 100'

Wd: 3 Sec: 3

Blk. 1362 Lot: 1

Owner: Jewish Historical Society of Maryland, Inc.